

WI-625  
Riverside United Methodist Church  
Salisbury  
Public worship

1889, 1894, 1903

The congregational history of the Riverside United Methodist Church traces its inception back to 1889, when a group of Methodist followers organized a separate church on the south side of Salisbury. An initial structure was erected in the vicinity of College Avenue and Riverside Drive in 1894. In 1902 a lot was purchased on the corner of Riverside Drive and Winder Street in an effort to relocate the congregation closer to town. The 1894 sanctuary was moved to the new site, and the entrance tower was built with wood cut from the new lot. About the same time the congregation renamed itself Stengle Methodist Episcopal Church of South Salisbury in honor of the district superintendent of the Methodist conference. In 1959 the name was changed to the Riverside United Methodist Church. The single-story, three-bay main block is a common architectural form for rural congregations during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-625

### 1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic

Riverside United Methodist Church (preferred)

other

Stengle Methodist Episcopal Church of South Salisbury

### 2. Location

street and number

608 Riverside Drive

not for publication

city, town

Salisbury

vicinity

county

Wicomico

### 3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

Trustees of Riverside United Methodist Church

street and number

608 Riverside Drive

telephone

city, town

Salisbury

state

Maryland

zip code 21801

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Wicomico County Clerk of Court

liber 34

folio 44

city, town

Salisbury

tax map 111

tax parcel 1478

tax ID number 13-053383

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

#### Category

- ☐ district  
☒ building(s)  
☐ structure  
☐ site  
☐ object

#### Ownership

- ☐ public  
☒ private  
☐ both

#### Current Function

- ☐ agriculture  
☐ commerce/trade  
☐ defense  
☐ domestic  
☐ education  
☐ funerary  
☐ government  
☐ health care  
☐ industry  
☐ landscape  
☐ recreation/culture  
☒ religion  
☐ social  
☐ transportation  
☐ work in progress  
☐ unknown  
☐ vacant/not in use  
☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Resource Count

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

buildings  
sites  
structures  
objects  
Total

Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. WI-625

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it

The Riverside United Methodist Church is located at 608 Riverside Drive at its intersection with Winder Street in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story frame church faces east with the gable roofed oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1894 and moved to this location in 1903, the single-story gable roofed frame church is supported on a brick pier foundation covered with pressed metal sheets. The exterior is clad with vinyl siding, and the gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the front of the 1894 structure is a two-story entrance and bell tower erected in 1903. The sanctuary is extended to the northeast with a shed roofed addition.

The southeast (main) elevation is dominated by a two-story entrance and bell tower. A modern front door is topped by a colored glass transom that incorporates the church name, "Riverside United Methodist Church." Rectangular colored glass windows pierce the sides of the tower, which is capped by a pyramidal roof. Flanking the tower are single colored glass memorial windows. The edge of the roof is finished with a slightly extended eave. Attached to the northeast side of the main block is a shed roofed addition that is lighted by colored glass windows as well. Colored glass panes frame a clear glass center panel.

The southwest side of the church is defined by a series of three evenly spaced colored glass memorial windows.

The northwest (rear) wall is defined by a shorter single story apse pierced by an octagonal colored glass window, and colored glass windows pierce each side. Attached to the back of the main block is an exterior brick stove stack.

The interior has been remodeled.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-625

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**Specific dates** 1889, 1894, 1903

**Architect/Builder**

**Construction dates**

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

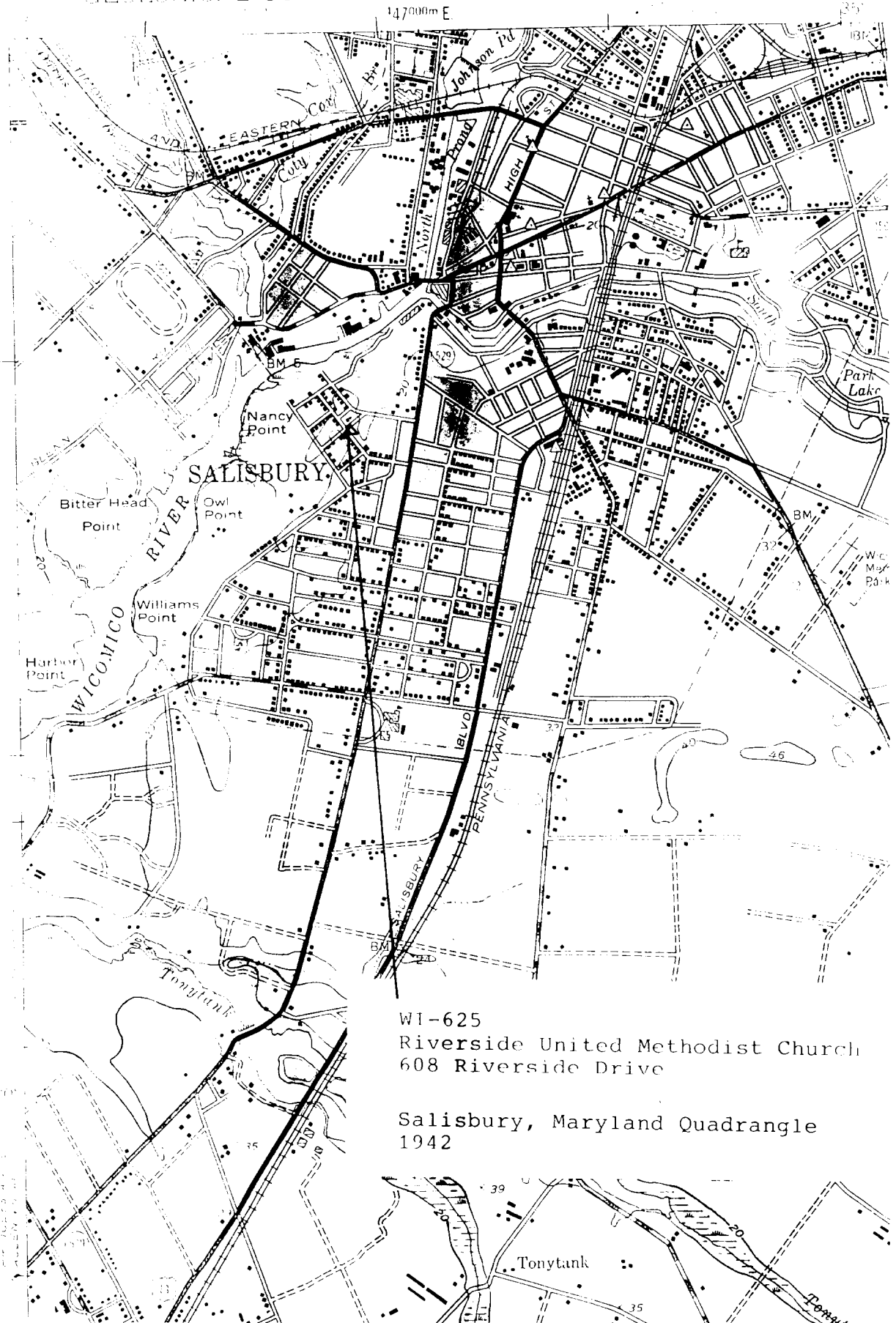
Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The congregation history of the Riverside United Methodist Church traces its inception back to 1889, when a group of Methodist followers organized a separate church on the south side of Salisbury. An initial structure was erected in the vicinity of College Avenue and Riverside Drive in 1894.<sup>1</sup> In 1902 a lot was purchased on the corner of Riverside Drive and Winder Street in an effort to relocate the congregation closer to town.<sup>2</sup> The 1894 building was moved to the new site, and the entrance tower was built with wood cut from the new lot. About the same time the congregation renamed itself the Stengle Methodist Episcopal Church of South Salisbury in honor of the district superintendent of the Methodist conference. In 1959 the name was changed to the Riverside United Methodist Church. The single-story, three-bay main block is a common church form for rural congregations.

<sup>1</sup> Congregational History provided by the Riverside United Methodist Church via riversideumc.com

<sup>2</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, 34/44, 2 October 1902.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-625

Name Riverside United Methodist Church  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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Riverside United Methodist Church  
608 Riverside Drive  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Map 111, Parcel 1478

Chain of title

34/44

Thomas W. H. White  
Henrietta M. White

to

10/2/1902

Stengle M. E. Church of South Salisbury  
“on the north side of Winder Street”

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. WI-625

Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 1/2 acre  
Acreage of historical setting 1/2 acre  
Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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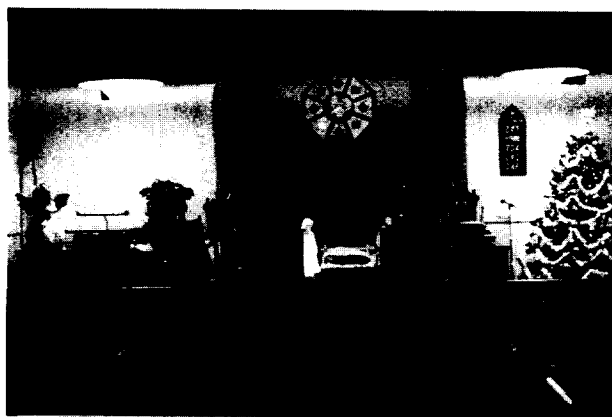
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	11/12/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

WI-625



## About Our Church And It's History

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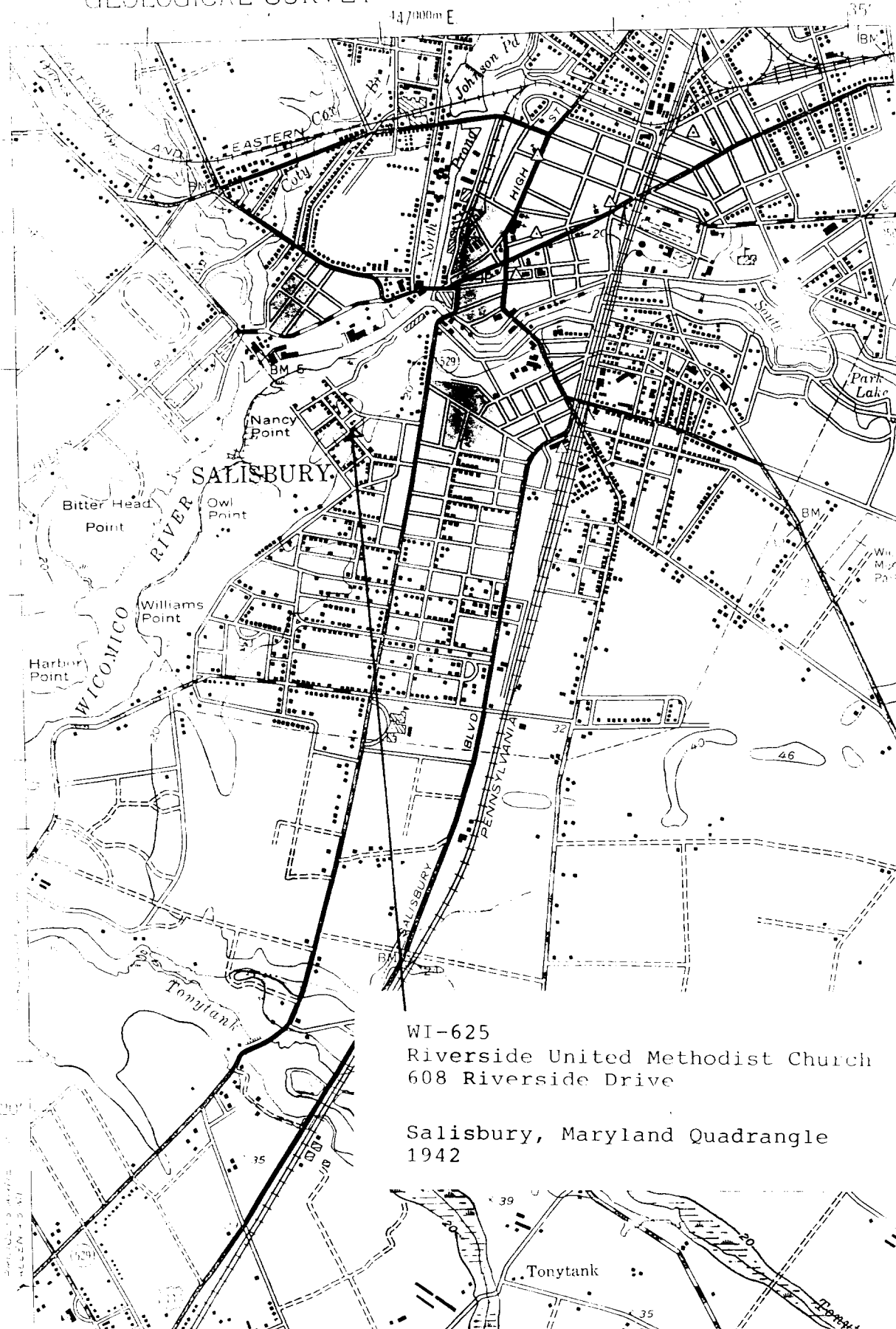
In 1889, a group of Christians living along the banks of the Wicomico River in Salisbury began to gather in a home for Sunday worship. There were several other Methodist Churches in the city, but this little group didn't want to travel "all the way" downtown. Finally, in 1894, they decided to build a church where College Avenue ran down to the river. It was a small structure but large enough for their needs. The congregation decided, over the next seven years that they were too far "out in the country" so they bought a piece of property at the corner of Winder Street and Riverside Road for \$150.

In 1903, they put their little church on wooden skids and with a team of horses, pulled their little church about 3/4 of a mile to its present location. There was a big pine tree that was too close to the front door of the church so they cut down the pine tree, had it sawed in lumber and used the lumber to build the current foyer and steeple. The church was named for the District Superintendent at the time, The Stengle Methodist Church. This name was not changed until 1959 when it became The Riverside United Methodist Church.

During the past decade, the Church has taken on the responsibility of ministering to the elderly population of the community. It is adjacent to a senior citizen housing



RECEIVED  
JAN 10 1964





W1-625

Riverside United Methodist Church  
SALISBURY, WISCONSIN Co. WIS.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

10/01, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEC. / N.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 4



W1-625

RIVERSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SARISBURY, WILMOT CO., N.D.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

10/01, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / ND HISTORICAL TRUST

2 of 4



W1-625

RIVERSIDE UNITED METH. CHURCH  
SALISBURY, WILMOT CO., MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

10/01, PAUL TOWN, PITTSBURGH

VER. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

3 or 4





W1-625

RIVERSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
SARASOTA, HICOMINGO CO., MD.

NOATHWEST 1 (NORTH)

10/01, PAUL TOWN AND PHOTOGRAPHED

NEED / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

4 or 4